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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003

Examiner: Dunwoody

Title: TUBE JOINT

COMMENT CONCERNING SUBMITTED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
AND EXAMINER'S STATEMENT IN NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability dated March 8, 2007 has been received. The notice, however, contains an unusual statement on page 2, stating as follows:

The information disclosure statement filed 3/17/2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

The statement appears to have been made in error. It is noted that the information listed in the IDS of March 17, 2005 appears to have been fully considered, as it should have.

Referring to the returned IDS sheet, the Examiner initialed all of the references listed thereon, indicating that the references were actually considered on March 5, 2007.

Further, a legible copy of the foreign patent document (CN 1266964) listed in the IDS was included therewith and exists in the image file wrapper. Further, a copy of the corresponding English language patent document, U.S. Patent No. 6,283,443 was also included in the IDS and was initialed by the Examiner. Thus, there is no reason for this information not to have been considered, and in fact, as indicated on the returned and initialed IDS sheet, the information was considered.

Since the record already indicates that the information disclosure statement was considered, a reply to this paper is not requested, however, it is asked that this paper be placed of record in the file history.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A. Guss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul A. Guss
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Reg. No. 33,099

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